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# **Vietnam Report**

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## PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

### DIRECTIVE TO CONTROL NON-COMMUNIST CULTURE, ARTS ISSUED

Hanoi TIEN PHONG in Vietnamese 2-8 Jun 81 p 3

[Articles: "New Directive of Ministry of Culture and Information: Control of Cultural and Artistic Activities Among Masses; Harsh Punishment of Artistic Speculators; Mass Singing Movement, Called Political Singing"]

[Text] On 20 May 1981, the Ministry of Culture and Information issued a directive on the control of cultural and artistic activities among the masses. After analyzing the mass cultural and artistic movement and the recent emergence of some unhealthy phenomena in the big cities, the directive enumerated a number of important measures designed to prevent negative phenomena and to develop healthy aspects of the mass cultural and artistic movement:

1. Must strictly carry out party and state decisions concerning the control of artistic activities, the showing of motion pictures, publishing and printing, the export-import of cultural works, and the ban on the circulation of reactionary and decadent cultural works. Must closely monitor the influx of cultural works from abroad, especially from capitalist countries, at ports of entry, wharves and post offices in contact with the outside world.

2. Strictly prohibit, and eliminate all cultural works (including sheet music) published during the U.S.-puppet period, except for those previously permitted for circulation; prohibit all forms of artistic activities (stage art, music, motion pictures) and all unhealthy artistic forms and contents that run counter to socialist education and undermine the national culture. Book stores, book counters, book stalls, song groups and teams of all collectives must be registered according to current state regulations. Prohibit and severely punish artistic speculators and put an end to unauthorized artistic performances.

Must regularly keep tabs on the activities of performing arts groups and control the purchase and sale of cultural works. Must prosecute violators of the laws.

3. In conjunction with various sectors, circles and mass organization, organize widespread education of all strata of the population concerning the need to exterminate reactionary and decadent culture. Must launch a mass movement to strongly condemn the baneful cultural tricks of neo-colonialism and those who use them to harm our people's healthy cultural life. Specialized organs must hold seminars and academic conferences to raise awareness of the enemy's plots in culture, and the noxious effects of all brands of reactionary and decadent culture, and to build a movement for healthy aesthetics among the people.

4. Must overcome all difficulties caused by shortages of supplies and funds so as to properly serve the people's cultural life. Must take special care to meet the cultural needs of various targets, particularly youths and teenagers. Launch a movement to involve the masses in cultural activities in clubs, houses of culture, in the traditional education movement, the book reading movement, etc. Must pay attention to artistic creation--organize, in particular, creative song and dance contests--with focus on regional folkloric richness throughout the nation. Build models, and use them to develop mass movements.

In showing the right artistic path and correct artistic performances, units coming from the central level must set an example for their local counterparts to follow. Likewise, professional groups must serve as a model for amateur groups. From now on the mass singing movement is called nationwide [the] political singing [movement].

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## ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

### ABUSES IN HANOI STATE STORES REVEALED

Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese 21 May 81 p 6

[Article by Phan Vu Hang: "Hanoi After Several Control Checks"]

[Text] Hanoi now has 65 worker control teams with 600 members, including 9 city-level teams and 56 district-level ones. There are two forms of control: concentrated periodic control and regular team control.

Concentrated periodic control is closely supervised and directed toward a specific target. With concentrated strength, the control teams have solved problems on a large-scale basis and within a specific time limit. Once, three successive campaigns were launched, lasting from 3 to 5 days each; other campaigns focused on only five staple commodities, such as grain, fuel, vegetables and fruit, meat, and fish--currently a pressing issue which commands everyone's attention.

Regular team control, characterized by smoothness and flexibility, helps solve simple problems immediately. This form of "ambush" is very effective, usually catching "the enemy" by surprise.

Since the last year, control teams have made 93 checks on food stores and counters alone. How about the results? Well, almost all checks uncovered infractions of various importance. The breakdown is as follows: 10 cases of reusing ration stamps and coupons, 3 cases of conspiring to steal food, 12 cases of accepting loose stamps in violation of sale regulations, 10 cases of tampering with scales and 1 case of a salesperson accused of mistreating customers.

Similar phenomena have been found during checks on counters and stores selling vegetables, fruit, fuel, sundry goods, beer and grain...

Almost all of these infractions were committed with premeditation. For example, while customers were standing in line, unable to buy fish at the Son Tay City food store, salespersons nonchalantly picked out prime fish for themselves and then sold what was left. On a certain day, the Minh Khai bicycle store on its own sold mini-bicycles, and state store personnel bought all of them; they put out 80 bicycle tires for sale and 78 were purchased by its own personnel! A number of kerosene stores used scoops with leak bottoms to measure fuel, causing customers to get less than what they paid for. This explained why after selling out its stock of 8,717 liters, the Chau Long kerosene counter still had 174 liters. At the Mai Hac De grain

store, three salespersons took advantage of approaching dusk to steal 17 kg of noodles for friends. Of five 10 kg-sacks of noodles checked at the Trung Tu store, four were underweight, one by 2.3 kg. Salespersons at the Hang Voi vegetable and fruit counter arbitrarily marked up eggplant from 20 to 50 hao. And five salespersons at the 44B Ba Trieu counter reserved for themselves the right to buy up at one time 81 kg of vegetables, paying no attention to customers standing in line outside.

These violations gradually are being corrected in accordance with the control team recommendations. The food, fuel and beer corporations have taken timely measures against violators. Salesperson X accused of offending customers at the Kim Lien food store was subjected to criticism and had to apologize to the customers. Other transgressors were transferred to other work. Those units which have recognized their shortcomings after being inspected were quick to reform and all made striking progress. For example, the Hai Chau noodle factory, after being told by control teams that a number of packages were underweight, criticized the packers on that shift and ordered the resewing of ripped sacks. A follow-up check showed no underweight bags out of 50 checked. (Regrettably recently it was found that the situation there was no longer the same).

Such remedial action is very praiseworthy. But the problem is far from over. These still are places which procrastinate and refuse to resolve problems. For example, the Linh Nam General Merchandise store arbitrarily marked up 98 sheet iron pails from 6.4 to 8.7 dong apiece, overcharging customers by 248.5 dong; but so far there has been no refund yet. A number of beer stores continue to force customers to buy appetizers along with beer. They also tamper with measuring cups, thus overpricing beer and actually charging from 3.7 to 4 dong a liter. Worse still, at the 119 Nguyen Khuyen store the controllers had put aside 10 mildewed packs of cigarettes for subsequent lab analysis, but when they returned for pickup the store manager had already opened up the embargoed items and sold them out.

Due to enthusiasm and a high sense of responsibility the people, the Hanoi worker control teams have contributed to restricting these negative phenomena and have helped units to identify their flaws and rectify them in time so as to ensure equitable, rational and proper distribution.

That is why the worker control teams enjoy the people's trust. The people spontaneously go to them and tell them where control is needed. For example, when salespersons at the X food counter concealed prime meat from customers, a controller presented his credentials and demanded a check. At first the people didn't understand what was happening and feared, so they didn't want the check. But after listening to him, they gave him support right away. Some people even volunteered to help him do his work. The controller uncovered the hidden meat and compelled the store to sell it. His action drew cheers from the people. A customer enthusiastically said, "We very rarely are able to buy good meat. It would have been extremely helpful if the control teams did their work sooner and in a regular way!"

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## ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

### COMPLAINTS ABOUT ERRATIC ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION

Hanoi LAO DONG 21 May 81 in Vietnamese p 7

[Article by Hoang Van, Haiphong: "Arbitrary Distribution of Electricity"]

[Text] At present, almost all branches of industrial and agricultural production in Haiphong are experiencing major difficulties, over electricity. At many meetings their representatives have pointed out that they will take turns for production if there is an insufficient supply of electricity, but they request that Electric Power Distribution and Management Service No 2 supply electricity on schedule.

Nevertheless, instances of arbitrary distribution still abound. Thousands of workers once reported at a factory for work when it was their turn to get power distribution only to find that electricity continued to be cut off; so they had to go home. Worse still, on some days entire batches of chemical products (cement, glass, enameled iron...) had to be scrapped altogether because of power outages during the most of production. Meanwhile, a large number of privately-owned shops selling beef soup, and doing work in bicycle painting and welding, in sewing and in laminating plastic work 30 days a month without a single hour of power outage.

Electric Power Distribution and Management Service No 2 must promptly change its work pattern and put an end to the arbitrary distribution of electricity so as to properly serve production and the people's lives.

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## ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

### NEED FOR MORE, BETTER CONTROL TEAM WORK HIGHLIGHTED

Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese 21 May 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Increase Activities of Workers Control Teams"]

[Text] To achieve the right of workers and civil servants to collective ownership pursuant to decision 182 of the Council of Ministers, worker control teams were set up. In more than a year, 387 teams with 3,472 members have been operating throughout the country. Since September 1980 alone, according to reports from 25 local trade union federations, these teams have made 337 checks on stores and enterprises dealing with the distribution, sale, processing and storage of goods.

The control checks showed that in the face of goods shortages and economic hardships, many units and personnel have endeavored to organize distribution, assuring that goods reach workers and civil servants and creating favorable conditions for buyers. Nonetheless, negative phenomena still are very prevalent. From 80 to 90 percent of units inspected have been found in some form of violation, the most common being distribution not in accordance with set procedures, taking advantage of lax management to steal state money and merchandise, and authoritarianism in violation of workers' and civil servants' rights of collective ownership.

It is difficult for us to imagine a commercial enterprise that has put aside one-third of its goods to sell and divide up the proceeds internally. Some commodities have been almost completely bought up in that way. A grain bureau arbitrarily sold tens of tons of animal feed to a person in the grain sector. An office head was able to buy as many spare parts for his bicycle as he deemed fit. And there are many other stores with similar infractions.

After being inspected many units with violations actively corrected their errors in compliance with the control team recommendations, and educated their personnel to prevent recurrence. But at the same time, many other stores persisted in making the same misdeeds.

During more than a year, worker control teams, especially those in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Nghe Tinh, Haiphong, Dong Nai, etc., have fulfilled work actively. Their members were enthusiastic, and zealous and maintained integrity and objectivity. Their activities gradually achieved depth and come up with many rich innovations. They thus contributed to restricting negative phenomena and to building a new management pattern and a new socialist man. But now they show signs of marking time, and

their initial zeal seems to be subsiding. This, first of all, is a problem of organization. Many trade union federations still do not have an adequate apparatus and the ability to organize and guide control teams properly. There even are a number of localities that still have not carried out Circular 02 TTLN of the government Inspection Commission and the Confederation of Trade Unions. In addition, quite a few local party committee echelons have not fully understood their obligation toward worker control teams. As a result, many cases remained unsolved or have dragged on for years, even though the cases are clearcut. This is especially true of cases involving persons with high positions or authority, where cases not only are pigeon-holed, but are used against disciplinary threats or change of jobs for those who have enthusiastically blown the whistle on abuses. The case of the Ha Dong drug store (Ha Son Binh) is fairly illustrative of this delay in resolving cases. This lax disposition of cases runs counter to the goals of inspection and control, reduces the people's trust and generates more new negative phenomena.

Inspection and control are a major component of management work. Therefore, to achieve practical results pursuant to Circular 02 TTLN trade union echelons must exert leadership, people's committees and responsible sectors must create conditions for control teams to carry out their activities unimpeded.

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## ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

### PLANNING FOR GRAIN STORAGE DISCUSSED

Hanoi LUONG THUC THUC PHAM [GRAIN & FOOD PRODUCTS] in Vietnamese No 6, Jun 80 pp 15-19

[Article by Nguyen Ba Ha of the Economic Research Department: "On Planning for Grain Storage"]

[Excerpt] I. Our Warehouse and Grain Storage Situation

#### 1. The grain storage situation.

Our sector's grain warehouse system (the Granary Bureau) began to be created during the anti-French resistance war. In 1959-1960, the Grain General Department planned the construction of a network of state purchasing warehouses to store grain all over the north, from Vinh Linh and Quang Binh to Cao Lang and Ha Tuyen. In 1965 the warehouse system was dispersed to 2,600 locations, in order to cope with the war of destruction waged by the U.S. imperialists in the north of our country. In the south, under the old regime, paddy was collected at local storage yards and bamboo bins, then transported to the raw materials warehouses of 2,000 large rice mills scattered all over the region. Practically none of the granaries were well-constructed. Their walls and roofs were made of metal panels, their foundations were of brick or cement, they had no ventilation systems or wire mesh to protect against mice, and their dirt floors were damp, so much of the grain that was stored was damaged and ruined. After the liberation (1975), the Ministry of Food began to build warehouses and drying patios in the rice producing areas of the south, in order to create conditions for the good management of the mobilized grain.

The amount of grain mobilized every year throughout the nation is quite great, and the amount imported is also considerable. Furthermore, the grain sector must also process subsidiary foods, process wheat into flour, and distribute to consumers millions of tons of grain (in rice equivalent) on a national scale. The grain sector has constructed in many areas many different kinds of warehouses to meet the needs of storage and consumption. For every ton of grain consumed each year it is necessary to have 1.5 tons of storage facilities. Thus the need for warehouses is considerable. But because the construction materials capabilities are limited, we do not yet have sufficient warehouses, especially in the island areas, the Vung Tau Special Zone, eastern Nam Bo, and the Central Highlands.

Our grain warehouse situation and characteristics are as follows:

a. State purchasing-storage warehouses: The network of state purchasing-storage warehouses, which extends from and central levels, is intended to reduce the distances peasants must travel to deliver paddy and rapidly collect grain for the state. In the north, it takes an average of 45 days for the state to purchase 600,000 to 700,000 tons of paddy. The more widely scattered the warehouses are, the more difficult management is: the rice must be loaded and unloaded many times, expenses increase, and mildew and beetles easily develop. The actual situation shows that 1.93 percent of the rice is lost due to war but 6.56 percent is lost because it is dispersed among the hamlets.

b. Rice mill warehouses: At present, in the nation as a whole there are more than 10,000 large and small rice mills. The system of warehouses for storing raw materials and finished products have not yet met the operational requirements of the rice mills (especially those operated by the state). In order to assure the form of buying raw materials and selling finished products (after the mobilization of grain has become a smooth operation), and have two-way transportation capabilities--taking paddy to the rice mills and taking husked rice, broken rice, and animal feed to the places of consumption--the large rice mills must have system of "satellite" warehouses so that they can become self-sufficient with regard to raw materials and create conditions for inspecting the quality of the paddy before husking it, while also taking steps to treat the various kinds of low-quality paddy, reduce waste, and increase the ratio of finished products recovered.

c. Import transshipment warehouses: A network of transshipment warehouses has been created at the main transportation hubs and at the river and sea ports. But nearly all of those warehouses are suitable only for storing bagged goods and have no equipment for handling bulk goods, which adversely affects the unloading of ships and the management of labor.

d. Consumption warehouses: Every year, the grain sector must serve the categories of people to which the state is responsible for supplying a rather large amount of grain. The nation as a whole has several thousand service and buying-selling locations. Some places combine storage facilities, rice mills, and feed mills in an area. The warehouses were small and not conveniently located, which caused many difficulties for managing forces and serving customers.

In general, in the system of grain warehouses there are still contradictions between the tendency to disperse and capability to concentrate and between the requirements of economic development and the requirements of strengthening national defense. Nor has it met the service, storage, and management requirements.

In the past, the economic effectiveness of the warehouse system was not improved by the application of scientific-technical advances in storage. It merely served the circulation activities. Therefore, at present many localities are encountering many difficulties in management, in grasping the situation, and in managing forces. In many areas the warehouses are located in remote places, so access is very difficult.



Warehouse planning must be carried out in the sphere of the province and district, in order to resolve the above-mentioned problems, reduce construction expenses, and do a good job of meeting the management and construction requirements.

## 2. The grain storage situation.

Our country's climate is hot and humid, so the storage of grain is very difficult. The Ministry has guided the services and bureaus in applying many storage measures, on the basis of our actual situation and capabilities. Paddy stored in silos is normally of good quality. Recently, storage in the bulk warehouses was improved by using forced-air ventilation, which circulates the air around the paddy, keeps it dry, and increases its storage time. Some sealed warehouses have also been able to prevent beetles.

In many places, grain has been well stored, but some places have not paid adequate attention to that matter. Practically none of the warehouses have been equipped with quality-control equipment or sifting and drying equipment, so the grain entering the warehouses still includes much extraneous matter and the grains are not intact, which creates many difficulties for storage. The warehouse system includes many types of warehouses which were constructed at many different times and are on different scales and differ in the method of construction. Although they meet some of the sector's storage requirements they still have many weaknesses. For example, their anti-humidity and insulating capabilities are not truly good, etc. Some warehouses must be refloored every year, which is very expensive. Usually, during the periods in which grain is sent to the warehouses a rather large amount is put in bamboo warehouses or temporary shelters, or in borrowed pagodas and houses, so there is considerable loss and damage. A matter very worthy of attention is that at present specific depletion rates have not been determined for each kind of warehouse. In some warehouses which store bagged goods, losses due to mice amount to 9 or 10 percent. That does not include the nearly 10 million tons of grain which the people must store in bamboo baskets and earthen jars, a practice regarding which they have received no guidance. Therefore, in society as a whole such losses may amount to hundreds of thousands of tons.

Thus the planning of warehouses is a requirement of the task of managing staple food, and is a condition for applying scientific-technical advances in storage.

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## ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

### IMPORTANCE OF STATE CONTROL OF GRAIN STRESSED

Hanoi LUONG THUC THUC PHAM [GRAIN & FOOD PRODUCTS] in Vietnamese No 6, Jun 80 pp 8-11

[Article by Nguyen Chung Anh of the Economic Research Department: "On the Unification of Grain Management by the State"]

[Text] Editor's Note: The unification of grain management by the state and the management of the grain market are major matters of important economic and technical significance, and are related to the struggle to resolve our country's grain problem. There are still many problems related to those matters which must be carefully discussed. In this time we are publishing an article by comrade Nguyen Chung Anh, head of the Economic Research Department of the Ministry of Food. We invite further opinions regarding those matters from readers within and without the sector.

The unification of grain management by the state throughout the nation is a matter of principle of the socialist revolution and the enterprise of building socialism. V. Lenin pointed out that if the state of the working class does not control a grain reserve it cannot protect its proletarian dictatorship.

Grain is the most essential need of people's lives. Everyone's daily lives may temporarily lack one thing or another, but they cannot lack grain. Grain is also our country's No 1 strategic material, and is very closely related to the enterprise of building and defending our homeland. In order to resolve the grain problem it is necessary to, on the basis of concentrating efforts on promoting the development of grain production, do a truly good job of state grain purchasing. It is necessary to manage the distribution of grain very tightly and practice absolute economy, and positively redistribute workers and plan population increases, while gradually unifying grain management by the state throughout the nation.

The unification of grain management by the state on a national scale means that by means of all forms--the collection of agricultural taxes in grain, state grain purchasing according to stabilized obligatory levels and by means of two-way contracts, and the purchasing of grain at negotiated prices, and perhaps by means of other forms such as collecting irrigation fees, tractor plowing fees, etc, in grain--the state controls most of the peasants' commodity grain. Furthermore, that grain is supplied for consumption by categories for which the state is responsible in order to assure production, stimulate the development of production, and assure combat readiness and combat to defend the homeland. Furthermore, the state must build a

grain reserve. In the outline report on strategy of the Russian Communist Party at the Congress of the Third International (13 June 1921), V. Lenin affirmed that "Only when the workers' state has a truly sufficient grain reserve can it build a solid economic base, and only then can it assure that large-scale industry can be fed, slowly but surely. Only then can it create a proper financial system."

In the great undertaking of building socialism, the unification of grain management by the state is a strategic mission. It is not only an economic matter but is also a matter with important political content. In accordance with the spirit of Resolution 09-CP of the Council of Ministers regarding the grain policy, and in order to implement the principle of the state unifying grain management throughout the nation, it is necessary to be very concerned with managing the grain market.

The matter of managing the grain market and advancing to the elimination of the "free" market in grain is one that has often been discussed and about which there are many different opinions.

We believe that market management means the management of the socialist market, including state retail stores, marketing cooperatives, and rural markets or area markets (in some areas in municipalities, cities, or industrial zones, at which small-scale exchanges are made between the producers and the consumers). As for the "free" market in grain, in the immediate future we must restrict and transform the merchants and advance to abolishing that market. Thus market management also means the planned, balanced coordination of supply and demand in the daily circulation and distribution of grain.

However, the "free" market in grain will continue to exist for a certain period of time and cannot be eliminated immediately, for at present, about 3 million of the people who do not produce grain have not been distributed grain by the state (in the northern provinces there are about 500,000 such people and in the southern provinces there are about 4.5 million). On the "free" market there are still circulated 1 to 1.2 million tons of grain in paddy equivalent, which corresponds to the total of such people. These merchants include small merchants who were shifted to agricultural production but could not adapt to rural life and fled to the cities; people who went to develop new economic zones but were discontent and returned home; the families of workers and cadres in the rural areas which had no family heads, didn't have enough to eat, and moved to the cities; and a number of people who had been concentrated in the cities by the puppet administration before the liberation and are eligible to return to their home areas to engage in agricultural production but have not yet done so. If our state has a plentiful supply of grain it can meet their needs and help them truly participate in production in order to create material wealth for society. But at present the state is still short of grain, so such people must buy them on the "free" market, so the "free" market continues to exist. It is possible to draft a struggle goal for the next 5 years: providing jobs for "free" market merchants and campaigning for them to return to production so that they can receive grain rations and in order to expand the socialist market in grain. On that basis, we must gradually restrict the activities of the "free" market and advance to eliminating it.

The process of creating that transformation is a process of fulfilling the mission of managing the grain market, in addition to promoting state purchasing and strengthening management of grain distribution.

In order to achieve market management, first of all it is necessary to determine market needs and capabilities for supplying grain commodities to the market.

With regard to market needs, there are the food needs of the people who do not produce grain, including industrial workers, cadres, troops, people who live in cities, produce salt, work in artisan industries and handicrafts, grow industrial crops, and raise livestock, college and vocational school students, etc, and members of their families. Those having food needs also include peasants producing grain who have poor harvests or have accidents and lose their grain shares. In addition to food needs there is a need for grain to be processed into other goods, such as sugar, candy and cookies, dipping sauce, and alcohol, and for making cloth sizing, flashlight batteries, glue, etc, and also needs for stock raising, seedstocks, export, and reserves. Those needs must be calculated for each region, district, and province, as well as the nation as a whole. Such relatively stable norms for calculating needs as the per-capita food-intake levels, norms for processing and livestock needs, etc, must also be accurately calculated.

The market's supply capabilities include grain commodities produced in our country and food imported or taken out of stockpiles when necessary. The market forces must also be calculated and balanced with the needs of each village, district, and province, and the nation as a whole.

For a long time, the methods used to calculate commodity grain differed from place to place and from sector to sector. It is necessary to advance to unifying a number of basic norms used in making the calculations. For example, in calculating grain losses in harvesting, storage, and transportation are fixed at 5 to 7 percent, but in some places it is 10 percent or more. The northern provinces record harvest statistics and calculate yields and output only after drying and winnowing, so the loss level is low, but the southern provinces have only begun to record harvest statistics and do not dry and winnow, so the loss level is higher. We must guide the cooperatives, production collectives and peasant households in observing the agricultural product standards that have been established in order to produce good grain. Thus a loss rate for paddy, corn, and kaoliang of 5 percent and an average loss rate for subsidiary food crops in paddy equivalent of 7 percent are about right. They should not exceed 15 percent. With regard to livestock norms, we must use a unit of feed that corresponds to grain in paddy equivalent. According to stipulations of the Ministry of Agriculture, a kilo of poultry requires 3.5 kilos of grain in paddy equivalent, 100 duck eggs require 20 kilos of grain in paddy equivalent, etc. With regard to grain set aside for consumption by the peasants, the amount varies from place to place. But in fact, the monthly consumption needs of peasants amount to only 18 to 20 kilos of grain in paddy equivalent (including the food obtained via the secondary family economy). The ratio of husked rice obtained from paddy has also not been unified: the northern provinces calculate 70 percent but the southern provinces calculate only 65 percent. We should calculate an average of 68 percent, and then endeavor to improve techniques in order to gradually increase the ratio of finished products.

On the basis of the above-mentioned norms it is possible to calculate with relative accuracy the amount of commodity grain of each cooperative, individual household, district, and province, and of the nation as a whole. And it is possible to make a supply-demand chart in order to predict market trends.



At present, market management amounts to controlling and managing most of the commodity grain, while at the same time managing the industrial goods in order to exchange goods with the peasants. Once firm control is gained of those forces, measures must be taken to closely monitor the state purchasing situation, the grain sales situation, the forces and prices on the "free" market, and the purchasers and sellers on that market. The effectiveness of market management is manifested in capability to utilize in a combined manner the purchasing and supplying of grain by the state, to utilize the mode of two-way commodity exchanges between the state and the peasants, to analyse developments on the "free" market, and thereby to utilize the method of purchasing staple foods at negotiated prices, in order to adjust the "free" market in a manner advantageous for grain production.

Managing the market and advancing to abolishing the "free" market in grain are not accomplished by forbidding it according to subjective desires, but by a process of both reforming merchants who sell grain and teaching the consumers to engage in socialist production so that they can be distributed grain in accordance with the common standards. At the same time, it is necessary to resolve that problem by increasing the amount of grain purchased by the state, by tightly managing the distribution of grain, and by combining the management of grain distribution with labor management, production management, market management, and the maintenance of social order.

However, market management, including research analysis, the exercise of grain management (purchasing, transferring, distribution, and stockpiling), and the gradual transformation and eventual elimination of the "free" market in grain, is a specific task which must be carried out in all regions, districts, and provinces, so there must be a decentralization of management from the central level to the provinces, municipalities, and districts. The district echelon is the echelon which directly manages the bases. The district must oversee the application of specific measures regarding market management in each village and agricultural cooperative.

So does the decentralization of grain management to the provinces and districts differ from the principle of the state unifying the management of grain on a national scale? In actuality, the decentralization of management of grain foods differs from the decentralization of the management of the other sectors. That decentralization must meet two requirements: fully meeting the requirements of the state at the central level with regard to the amounts purchased, distributed, and stockpiled, with regard to the tax and state purchasing obligations according to two-way contracts, and with regard to the supply and reserve norms of the state. Furthermore, the local governmental administration, the representative of the state in the locality, is responsible for implementing the principle of the state unifying the management of grain in each territorial area.

The decentralization of grain management to provinces, municipalities, and districts is intended to assign to localities responsibility for implementing the principle of the state unifying the management of grain throughout the nation, and also to heighten the responsibility of the localities in endeavoring to develop production and mobilize grain in order to have sufficient amounts to meet the local consumption needs and rapidly increase the amount contributed to meet the needs of the nation.

Thus the nature of the decentralization of grain management must be concretized as follows:

--As regards the purchasing, mobilization, storage, and transfer of grain--the managerial responsibility of the central echelons--the localities are assigned responsibility for specific tasks delegated by the central echelon.

--The production of grain, the distribution of grain in the rural areas, the distribution of grain in accordance with the common policies and systems to the non-agricultural categories supplied by the state, and the monitoring of the management of the "free" market in grain in the locality are decentralized to the provinces and districts.

In principle, the localities do not have reserve grain stockpiles. The protection of grain reserves which are managed by the central echelon but are located in a locality is the responsibility of the locality. However, in the case of localities which achieve accomplishments in promoting the development of grain production, surpass their mobilization plans, and economize in the processing and distribution of grain and therefore have a surplus, the central echelon may turn over part of all of that surplus to the locality in order to create a reserve which the province can use to develop the local economy in accordance with plans approved by the central echelon. But that reserve can only be used in accordance with an annual plan. If any is left over at the end of the year, it must be turned over to the central echelon.

The decentralization of grain management, as described above, does not assign all authority to the localities, for grain is the No 1 strategic material. If management were decentralized as with regard to the other sectors, that would violate the principle of the unification of management in the state on a national scale.

Every year, on the basis of the fulfillment of grain production plans, the central echelon and the localities calculate the grain needs, calculate the commodity grain output, assign state purchasing and mobilization norms, calculate the amount of grain the state will distribute in the locality, and assign that amount to the locality for distribution to consumers. With regard to grain that must be shifted from the locality, the central level will have plans for storing it on the spot, processing it, or transporting it to other places in accordance with central plans. If the central level needs to use the warehouses, factories, and transportation facilities of the localities, the central level must reimburse the locality for expenses.

The three matters mentioned above--the unification of grain management in the state on a national scale, market management and the decentralization of grain management, and the formation of a unified organization in the state's grain food task--are intended to resolve our country's grain problem. They should not be separated, for if we do not unify the management of grain we cannot decentralize the management of grain or cannot manage the grain market. Furthermore, if we do not decentralize management we cannot manage the market and transform the "free" market in grain, and it will be difficult to do a good job of mobilizing and distributing grain to meet the needs of developing production and provide sufficient food.

But how should that task be carried out? Where should we begin?

We believe that in striving to resolve our country's grain problem we must simultaneously carry out all three tasks mentioned above, the most important of which is the state's unification of grain management throughout the nation. Of course, in



resolving the grain problem we must also apply many other measures, especially price measures, including the adjustment of prices of grain sold by the state so that they can be appropriate to the relationships of the over-all price structure. However, if we only resolve price but do not resolve the relationships among unifying management, decentralizing management, and managing the market, we can resolve no problems.

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CSO: 4209/319

## AGRICULTURE

### CIRCULAR ISSUED ON MOBILIZING GRAIN

Hanoi LUONG THUC THUC PHAM [GRAIN & FOOD PRODUCTS] in Vietnamese No 6, Jun 80 pp 42-48

[Circular No 01-LTTP/CS, dated 16 April 1980, of the Ministry of Food, guiding the implementation of Resolution No 09-CP of the Council of Ministers. The Vietnamese term "luong thuc" translated as "grain" in all JPRS Vietnamese material includes the cereal grains plus manioc, potatoes and beans.]

[Text] Concerning the Grain Mobilization Policy

The Council of Ministers issued Resolution No 09-CP, dated 9 January 1980, regarding the grain policy, and the Political Bureau issued Resolution No 25-NQ/TW, dated 1 April 1980, and a number of policies and measures, which were intended to resolve the present difficulties regarding grain.

The resolutions clearly and comprehensively pointed out the basic viewpoints, direction, and policies. In this circular, the Ministry gives guidance regarding the mobilization of grain, including the following matters.

#### I. Collecting Agricultural Taxes and Purchasing Grain According to Obligations

In order to assure the good fulfillment of the tax collection and grain purchasing tasks, the foremost condition is that the various echelons and sectors must concentrate on doing a good job of comprehensively guiding agricultural production development plans and policies, the central concerns of which are foodstuffs, in accordance with the spirit of the Resolution of the Sixth Plenum of the Party Central Committee.

The payment of agricultural taxes in grain and the selling of grain at guidance prices in accordance with two-way contracts were confirmed as being obligations of agricultural cooperatives and individual peasant households, and were stabilized for a 5-year period, beginning in 1980. Those levels are assigned in terms of absolute quantities and the levels set for the first year will not change for the next 5 years. If the cooperatives and peasant households positively produce, increase the number of growing seasons, and increase output, the state will not increase their obligations. If there is a serious crop failure or if difficulties are encountered in the lives of the cooperative members and peasants, the state will examine the situation and adopt a policy to exempt, reduce, or delay payments.

1. The bases for making calculations in order to determine tax obligations and the obligation for selling grain in accordance with two-way contracts.

"The area planted in grain in 1978, the average grain yield in the north during the past 5 years (1974-1978), and the average yield in the south during the past 3 years (1976-1978) (based on areas with equal soil fertility)" are the bases for determining the stabilized obligatory levels (for taxes and purchases made in accordance with contracts). In addition to those common bases, when making calculations it is necessary to pay attention to the average per-capita cultivated area, capabilities for increasing the output of commodity grain, and living conditions, in order to correctly determine the obligatory level of sales made according to two-way contracts.

a. The area growing grain in 1978 is the surface area planted exclusively or principally in grain as determined by an actual investigation carried out in 1978 in accordance with Decision 169-CP, dated 24 June 1977, of the Council of Ministers and Decision 339-VP/DTRD, dated 27 Aug 1977, of the Statistics General Department. The following matter must receive attention: the area planted in grain but abandoned for no legitimate reason must also be calculated in setting the grain obligation, in order to encourage the cooperative members and peasants to fully utilize in growing grain land that has grown grain in the past. Land must not be abandoned, except when natural disasters or destruction by the enemy prevents cultivation. Land used principally to grow industrial crops, but on which grain crops are occasionally interplanted should not be calculated in setting grain obligations, but will be used to set industrial crop obligations.

Of the area used to grow grain, the acreage set aside for stock raising in accordance with Circular 291-TTg, dated 19 May 1978, of the Premier is not included in calculating grain obligations. In such of livestock output which corresponds to the grain acreage and the output obtained on the land that was used.

b. Regarding average yields:

Average annual yields are the average cultivation yields or planting yields for one year during a 5-year period in the north (1974-1978) and a 3-year period in the south (1976-1978). Thus places which have previously determined cultivation yields should base their average on cultivation yields. Places which have previously only determined planting yields must base their calculations on the planting yields of the various kinds of crops between 1974 and 1978 in the north and between 1976 and 1978 in the south, in order to average annual planting yields.

The calculation of average yields according to area must be based on two factors: the fertility of the soil and the cultivation conditions. When fertility and cultivation conditions are the same, the yields that are calculated should be the same.

In general, yields should be calculated on an area-wide basis. Places which have zoned their land should calculate yields on the basis of areas, i.e., with regard to cultivated grain acreage of cooperatives and individual peasant households in an area which the soil fertility, irrigation, state investment, and other conditions are similar, the average yields that are calculated should be similar. The areas may be large or small, depending on the actual situation of each place.

In an area there may be two or three kinds of land (first class, second class, etc), each of which produces a different yield. The determination of yields according to area serves to further intensive cultivation and increase yields. Those who do a good job receive shares higher than the average yield level, while those who do not will have to make greater efforts. It is necessary to pay attention to assuring that the places in which production is largely individual must go all-out to determine area yields in order to avoid complications when calculating output and distributing grain among the households.

c. The output used to determine the stabilized obligation is that calculated on the basis of the acreage growing grain, according to the 1978 survey, multiplied by the average annual yield in the area, as discussed in sections "a" and "b" above. The places which have determined the average cultivation yields should multiply them by the acreage determined by the survey, while the places which have only been able to determine by the survey, while the places which have only been able to determine planting yields should multiply them by the planted acreage, according to the survey. That output is calculated on the basis of the average yield attained, and on the actual cultivated acreage determined by the survey, so that it is not unrealistically high.

2. Determining the stabilized obligation norms and assigning the norms to the production echelons and units.

The stabilized obligation norms, including those for both taxes and purchases via two-way contracts, which are assigned to cooperative and individual peasant households, include the total annual obligations and specific norms for each cultivated hectare. After taxes are deducted, the remainder is sold on an obligatory basis via two-way contracts.

a. In order to determine the total annual obligation, it is necessary to grasp two requirements--the state's grain requirement and that of the peasants--and it is necessary to understand the following principle: those who produce much will contribute much, but will also be able to consume much and have a high income level, while those who produce little will produce little, but will also produce little and have a lower income.

It is necessary to pay attention to the following points when calculating balances:

With regard to population, the basis will be the Government's census of 1 October 1979:

With regard to seedstock, the basis will be that determined by the Ministry of Agriculture:

Fifth-month rice:	100 kg/ha plus 20 percent reserve
Spring rice :	120 kg/ha plus 20 percent reserve
Tenth-month rice:	110 kg/ha plus 20 percent reserve
Rice sown directly on wet soil :	100 kg/ha plus 20 percent reserve
Rice sown directly on dry soil :	170 kg/ha plus 20 percent reserve
Floating rice :	200 kg/ha plus 20 percent reserve
Corn :	40 kg/ha
Kaoliang :	35 kg/ha
White potatoes :	2000 kg/ha



Seedstock reserves are allowed on a one-time basis and must be used up before others are allowed. Reserves are not necessarily allowed every year and every season. The seedstock reserves are managed by the districts. If by the end of the season they haven't been used, they are sold to the state at negotiated prices or carried over to the next season to be used as seeds. But they are not to be kept in reserve for another season.

With regard to the acreage set aside for collective animal husbandry, the policy of setting aside 10 to 15 percent of the acreage is still observed. It is not essential that all of that land be grain land. Depending on the type of livestock (hogs, water buffaloes, cattle, chickens, ducks, etc), and on the animal husbandry conditions of each place (some places have only fields, some have lakes and ponds, some have much hilly land, etc), appropriate acreage should be set aside to grow feed to meet the stock-raising requirements, including the growing of grain, greens-growing, fish-raising, etc. As regards grains produced on such land, as stock raising is developed grain is deducted. If grain is set aside for stock raising but the meat obligation is not fulfilled, outside the stabilized grain obligation norm. We must be on guard against the situation of grain acreage being set aside but hog production not increasing, the selling of meat to the state not being assured, the output of grain and other crops not increasing correspondingly, and the obligation to sell grain to the state not being fully fulfilled.

The various kinds of grain funds in the cooperatives must be in accordance with Decision No 400-CP, date 5 November 1979, of the Council of Ministers:

- Public welfare fund: 1 to 2 percent
- Reserve fund: 1 percent

The cooperatives cannot arbitrarily create other funds.

In grain mobilization, the various kinds of subsidiary foods are equated with paddy in accordance with the following ratios:

- 1 kg of dry seed corn equals 1 kg of paddy.
- 1 kg of dry potatoes or manioc equals 1 kg of paddy.
- 3 kg of fresh potatoes or manioc equal 1 kg of paddy.
- 3 kg of white potatoes equal 1 kg of paddy.
- 1 kg of dry kaoliang equals 1 kg of paddy.

By calculating balances we must determine the total obligatory grain norm for a year, including tax payment and the selling of grain according to two-way contracts. The agricultural tax rate for the 1979-1980 5th month-spring season is based on the present tax schedule, but later will be based on a new tax schedule. If the tax rate changes, the obligatory selling norm will change correspondingly, but the general stabilized rate of the production unit will not change.

b. The general obligatory norms assigned by the central level to the provinces and municipalities must be assured, and does not include amounts sold at negotiated prices. In order to meet local consumption needs and contribute to the central level, the provinces and districts must purchase additional amounts of grain at negotiated prices, depending on the production results in each season and year and according to guidance by the Ministry.



On the basis of calculating balances in each locality, the province assigns norms to each district, and the district assigns norms to cooperatives and individual peasant households. In the south, where there are cooperatives or collectives the district assigns norms to cooperatives or collectives. Where there are no cooperatives or collectives, norms are assigned to the villages and hamlets, so that the village people's committees, along with the hamlet representative committees, assign norms to each peasant household. The districts, however, must send cadres to help the villages and hamlets and see to it that they do a good job. In order to simplify the calculations of the bases in the southern provinces, the Ministry of Food has a chart of stabilized obligatory norms regarding each production unit, especially the individual peasant households.

With regard to the mountainous area, the border areas, and a number of places in the piedmont region, if a village or cooperative experiences many difficulties in production and ordinarily has only enough to eat, the state grants exemptions regarding the collection of agricultural taxes in grain and does not assign norms for the obligatory sale of grain to the state. In the event that such places need to sell grain, the state purchases it at negotiated prices and makes payment in money or goods. However, some places in which the cooperative, cooperative families, and peasants have always fulfilled their obligations and the living conditions of the cooperative members are stable and are steadily improving may educate the peasants to continue to sell grain to the state according to stable two-way obligations.

c. The above are some of the principal contents of the calculation, balancing, and setting of norms and the assignment of stable obligatory norms. Furthermore, in the event of changes in the organization or scale of production or the increase or decrease of the cultivated area on which obligations are based, the following will apply:

In the event that a large cooperative is divided into small cooperatives, the schedules may be recalculated for each small cooperative, but the obligatory norms assigned to the small cooperatives must still equal the norm of the old, large cooperative.

If there is a readjustment of land among cooperatives, we must at the same time readjust the obligatory norms based on the land area.

If the cooperative receives many additional nonagricultural people sent from other places in accordance with state plans, and a large amount of grain is distributed to them, thus affecting the amount of food divided up among the cooperative members, the district people's committee will examine the situation and report to the provincial and municipal people's committee. After receiving the approval of the provincial or municipal people's committee, the district people's committee will issue a decision readjusting the obligatory norms for such cooperatives.

If some of cultivated land of a cooperative is changed over to growing industrial crops, vegetables, etc, or is used for capital construction in accordance with state plans, the district people's committee examines the situation in order to make a report to the province or municipality and request a readjustment of the cooperative's.

If, during the 5-year obligation stabilization period, reclaimed or restored land becomes eligible for taxation there must be added to the stabilized obligatory norm the taxes and sales obligation of that acreage. If a large number of people are sent to new economic zones or to do other work, the obligatory norm in order to encourage people to go to build new economic zones.

### 3. Transporting grain to warehouses.

--With regard to grain paid as taxes, the cooperatives, production collectives, and individual peasant households have the following obligations regarding the transporting of grain to state warehouses:

In the northern provinces, "On an annual average, each worker is required to transport 5 quintals/kilometer without pay. If the transportation exceeds that level, the purchasing organ must pay the transportation fees of the cooperatives and peasant households, based on the common fees stipulated by the state for each type of transportation facility. (From Resolution 84-CP, dated 24 October 1970, of the Council of Ministers.)

In the southern provinces, the cooperatives, production collectives, and peasant households are responsible for "transporting tax rice within a radius of five kilometers. For longer distances, reimbursement is paid for distances greater than five kilometers." (Article 31 of the Agricultural Tax Statutes in the southern provinces.)

With regard to grain sold according to contracts, the cooperatives and peasants taking grain to sell at state warehouses are paid transportation expenses at state guidance prices for each kind of transportation facility. If the facility is mechanized, they are sold a fixed amount of gasoline.

## II. Purchasing Grain at Negotiated Prices

The grain purchased at negotiated prices is that remaining after the cooperatives and peasant households have fulfilled their obligations and repaid their debts, and grain saved by the cooperatives and peasant households to sell beyond their obligations. Workers and civil servants who, where conditions permit the production of grain beyond the self-sufficiency norms, have surpluses to sell to the state are also paid at negotiated prices.

The Ministry of Food will, depending on the specific situation of each season and each place, assign norms and guidance prices in each province in which it is possible to do so. The provinces will assign tasks and guide the districts producing large quantities of commodity grain in fulfilling them. The common principle is that the negotiated prices should not be higher than the market prices in such places.

In order to purchase grain at negotiated prices, we must do a good job of encouraging and educating the cooperative members and peasants to sell grain to the state. We must also have appropriate purchasing modes and pay attention to market management.

In addition to paying negotiated prices in money, it is necessary to set aside some goods (including production means), which are appropriate to the local requirements and tastes, for use in barter, also based on negotiated prices.

The state purchasing organization must be extensive, convenient, and prompt, and reach the people with grain to sell. Marketing cooperatives may be authorized to serve as purchasing agents.

### III. The State Farms and Army Farms Turn Over Grain to the State

The assignment of production missions to state farms or army farms managed by the state (at the central or local levels) is a very new mission that is in accordance with the spirit of the Resolution of the Sixth Plenum of the Party Central Committee. From now on, those farms will fulfill norms regarding the turning over of grain to the state. Along with the agricultural sector, the grain services and bureaus will from now on have to grasp the grain production plans of the state farms and the grain delivery plans, so that they can take the initiative in organizing the receiving of products turned over to the state by the state farms.

Grain produced in excess of the plan will also be turned over to the state and not sold on the outside. The state has a system of material rewards to encourage the state farms to do a good job.

If state farms growing industrial crops and raising livestock, and the state forests, have sufficient land, the municipal and municipal committees must assign plans to the state farms and state forests so that they can produce additional grain for people and livestock, in order to reduce the amount of raw materials that must be supplied by the state. If they produce well they will also receive material rewards, as is true regarding state enterprises. The grain services and bureaus must have working methods that are closely related to the state farms and state forests with plans to produce grain to turn over to the state or consume grain supplied by the state.

### IV. Signing Two-Way Economic Contracts

Resolution 09 of the Council of Ministers stipulated that "When obligatory sales norms regarding the sale of grain or the other agricultural products have been established for cooperatives and peasants, the state also stabilizes the norms regarding the supplying of materials and goods to the cooperatives and peasant households."

Carrying out two-way economic contracts is an obligation on the part of both parties, and manifests equality in the economic relations between the producing units and individuals and the state purchasing organs. In the immediate future it is necessary to implement Temporary Decision No 65/CP of the Council of Ministers and directives 525-TTg and 29-TTg of the Premier.

#### 1. Products and Contract Norms

The quantity of grain the cooperatives and peasant households contract to sell to the state is a stabilized annual grain norm that is valid for 5 years and includes

rice, corn, sweet potatoes, manioc, kaoliang, and white potatoes. The over-all annual norm is broken down into norms for each season.

The materials and goods supplied by the state to the cooperatives and peasant households include means of production, construction materials, and essential consumer goods. We must make careful calculations in calculating 1-year supply norms that are applied over a 3-year period and are based on the state's ability to distribute goods to the locality and on the goods produced locally, meet the requirements of the peasants, and are based on the exchange norms set by the state regarding the following principal materials:

- 1 kg of urea corresponds to 3-4 kg of paddy.
- 1 kg of standard 3A nitrogenous fertilizer corresponds to 1.5-2 kg of paddy.
- 1 kg of superphosphate or equivalent equals 1 kg of paddy.
- 1 liter of gasoline equals 4 kg of paddy.
- 1 cubic meter of grade 4, 5, or 6 wood (in the south, boat-building wood is used as the standard) equals 1 ton of paddy.
- 1 kg of cement equals 1 kg paddy.
- 1 liter of diesel oil equals 2 kg of paddy, etc.

Cloth is also based on standard norms set for grades 1, 2, and 3, in accordance with the standard of one unit of cloth equalling two units of paddy.

With regard to some ordinary consumer goods, many of them will be given equivalent values in order to calculate stabilized norms in terms of money.

Such services as mechanized plowing and harrowing, water pumping, rice husking, etc., provided directly to the production units by the state and collective units are paid for in kind (staple food or other agricultural products), according to specific norms set by each sector for each service.

With regard to the mountain region, the provinces and districts must include in two-way contracts goods that are appropriate to the production requirements and consumption needs in each place, such as cloth, embroidery thread, flashlight batteries, dried fish, salt (if requested by the masses), etc. As for the establishment of exchange rates, the goods other than those established by the Government are calculated by the provinces on the basis of its capabilities to provide goods and the requirements of state grain purchasing.

Goods provided by the central level and goods produced by local industry or imported are combined to form a common fund of goods to be used in making purchases in accordance with two-way contracts. The provincial and district people's committees exercise unified management of the goods funds, directly guide distribution in accordance with two-way plans, and assure that the amount of grain purchased corresponds to the materials and goods sold. From now on, it is essential that all materials and goods be subject to the unified state distribution plans guided by the provincial and district, in order to mesh with the plans for the purchasing of grain and the other agricultural products. The sectors cannot arbitrarily distribute the principal products mentioned above, without in turn purchasing the amounts of grain called for by the plans. The one-way transactions of the past must be abolished.



## 2. Methods of concluding and implementing contracts.

Contracts may be for 1 year or for 5 years (supplementary contracts may be signed annually if necessary), and may be implemented over several years in the case of highly valuable products. For example, the cooperatives and individual peasants needing to purchase materials to construct warehouses drying patios, etc, can make payments in grain over three or four seasons.

The state supplies materials and goods in three ways:

--The state supplies materials and goods in advance, and at harvest time the cooperatives and peasant households make payments in grain.

--The cooperatives and peasant households sell grain in advance and the state delivers materials and goods later.

--The state makes simultaneous exchanges with the cooperatives and peasant households: grain is sold and goods are purchased at the same time.

No matter what the method, it is necessary to manifest a sense of responsibility, respect the legal nature of the contract, and assure just exchanges. The grain bureaus and services and the district grain offices must closely monitor the contracts that have provided materials and goods in advance, so that at harvest time they can promptly supervise the cooperatives and peasant households in selling grain to the state according to the contracts that have been signed.

With regard to such services as mechanical plowing and harrowing, water pumping, rice husking, etc, it is necessary to cooperate closely with the relevant sectors in order to recover an amount of grain that corresponds to the gasoline, oil, and labor provided by the state.

It is necessary to coordinate with the agricultural and irrigation bureaus and services by means of tripartite contracts (one party in the grain organ, one party is the agricultural organ or irrigation organ, and one party is the agricultural cooperative, production collective, or peasant household) so that the agricultural organ or irrigation organ can carry out mechanical plowing and harrowing, or pump water, for the peasants. The grain organ directly collects grain from the peasants in accordance with the norms of the agricultural sector and the irrigation sector, and pays rice money (money for service labor) to the agricultural and irrigation organs. That grain is included in the amount of grain purchased in accordance with two-way contracts and stabilized obligatory norms.

As regard to rice milling, the grain bureaus and services assign tasks to the district grain offices on the basis of collecting for the state 14 kg of paddy for enough oil to mill one ton of paddy and paying the mill according to guidance prices. The paddy collected in that manner is also placed in the state grain warehouses, but it is not included in the purchasing norms assigned by the central level to the provinces and municipalities.

The prices used to make payments in accordance with the two-way contracts are the state guidance prices. With regard to purchases made at negotiated prices, both the agricultural products and industrial goods are calculated according to negotiated prices.



It is necessary to fully utilize the existing professional and managerial apparatus in organizing the distribution of materials and goods. The sectors will continue to manage goods they have dealt in the past, and will transport them to sell to peasant households in accordance with two-way plans.

The localities must also organize apparatus at the district level (materials, commercial, and living conditions committees) to guide the signing, and oversee the carrying out, of contracts.

## V. Organizing and Managing the Market

"The task of organizing and managing the market must have as its goals struggling to gradually reduce free market prices, gradually restrict the unorganized market, rapidly expanding the socialist market, and implementing the policy of the state unifying the management of grain throughout the nation.

After the cooperative members have fulfilled their grain obligations toward the state they are free to use and circulate the remaining grain, but they must be educated to economize in consumption and sell additional grain to the state at negotiated prices."

In order to do a good job of carrying out that policy, the most important matter is to do a good job of mobilizing grain and control virtually all of the commodity grain, beginning with the cooperatives, villages, and hamlets. In doing so, we must strictly meet the grain mobilization norms regarding their stabilized obligations. It is especially important that agricultural taxes be collected in full and that old debts be fully repaid to the state. Purchases according to two-way contracts must be sufficient to fulfill the plan. Furthermore, it is necessary to organize on a permanent and extensive basis the purchasing of grain at negotiated prices, especially in the key areas with much commodity grain.

Furthermore, it is necessary to do a good job of distributing and consuming grain. In the immediate future the state will continue to experience difficulties with regard to grain and will not be capable of assuring distribution to everyone not producing grain or of meeting all consumption needs of society, but it must endeavor to, gradually and on the basis of our ability to produce grain, control commodity, grain and expand the unified socialist market in grain.

The state severely punishes speculation in and hoarding of grain and the illegal buying and selling of grain, such as paddy, husked rice, corn, wheat, rice, corn, wheat, rice noodles, vermicelli, and wheat flour.

The state has the policy of strictly forbidding the illegal distilling of alcohol from grain, and we must correctly implement that policy.

As regards the north, we should not continue to permit the registration of people dealing in grain.

As regards the south, in the near future we will allow a number of rice dealers to operate in accordance with the requirements of each place, and must gradually restrict them, depending on the local grain organ's ability to expand commercial

operations. The provincial and municipal people's committees must decide which ones will be allowed to register to deal in grain, authorize the district people's committees to issue registrations and oversee the circulation of grain and make specific decisions regarding which places may buy and sell, the transportation routes and the amount of grain transported in each shipment, and the maximum amount of grain in storage. They must pay all their taxes and accept management by the local governmental administration.

Under the guidance of the provincial and district people's committees, and cooperating with the financial, commercial, public security, and other sectors, the grain bureaus and services and the district grain offices must manage the people dealing in grain, and must organize them into groups in order to educate them with regard to policies, explain laws to them, and guide them into the economic orbit of the state, in order to limit to the minimum such negative acts as raising prices in order to disrupt state purchasing, invent and spread false rumors, hoard and speculate in grain, etc. In the case of negative acts, we must resolutely educate, but in the case of deliberate disruption there must be strict punishment.

We must, on the basis of organizing the masses and governmental administrations at the base level, organize and manage people dealing in grain.

We must carry out reregistration and organize a network of people doing business in foodstuffs, producing confections, milling rice flour, etc, and only authorize only the number necessary to meet local needs to engage in those trades. There must be a policy to collect the full amount of taxes, in order to limit deductions and rationally regulate incomes.

The domestic trade may organize a public messing network in order to replace some private activities, especially in the municipalities, cities, and important transportation hubs, serve people in accordance with guaranteed commercial prices, contract out the processing of raw materials, etc, in order to serve consumers.

## VI. Organizing and Guiding Implementation

The grain policy is one of the major policies of the party and state and strongly affects many aspects of production and life. Therefore, all party committees, governmental and administrations, organs, and mass associations from the central level to the village and hamlet levels must do a truly good job of disseminating and studying the policy, in order to enable the entire party, the entire population, and the entire army to thoroughly understand the policy. First of all, the cadres and party members must thoroughly understand it and be exemplary in implementing it.

At the same time, it is necessary to understand the production, mobilization, and living conditions and situations and prepare sufficient data to draft and assign stabilized obligatory norms (the province assigns norms to districts, the districts assign norms to the individual peasant households).

We must promote the signing of two-way economic contracts with production units and sign contracts as norms are assigned.

It is necessary to guide test-points in order to gain experience for giving general guidance. Each province may select a district, and each district may select two or three villages, for advance guidance. We must send some cadres who understand the policy and have technical expertise to guide the test-points and provide assistance regarding the key aspects.

The bureaus and services must pay attention to assigning additional cadres to the mobilization of grain. There must be an element which specializes in two-way contracts and an element which specializes in market management (especially in the southern provinces) to organize, educate, and manage small merchants who are still allowed to register to deal in grain, and guide them in doing business in accordance with the stipulated policies and regulations.

Each province must select test-points for monitoring the prices of the free market in grain in the province, and select cadres to continually monitor changes in prices, volume, the categories of buyers and sellers, etc, and report to the Ministry every 5 days.

The Ministry of Food, beginning the implementation of Resolution 09-CP of the Council of Ministers and Resolution 25-NQ/TW of the Political Bureau regarding the mobilization of grain, which include many new features, has above given guidance regarding some of the principal points. If, in the process of implementing those resolutions, there may be matters which require the issuing of specific circulars or supplementation, so we request the localities and sectors in which new problems arise to report them to the Ministry of Food so that it can study and resolve them.

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## HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

### VO VAN KIET ADDRESSES CONFERENCE ON MASS CULTURE MOVEMENT

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[Speech by Vo Van Kiet: "Ho Chi Minh City Develops Combined Strength, Builds a Truly Fresh Mass Culture Movement, Creates an All-Round, Rich Musical Life: Determined to Win Victory on the Cultural-Ideological Front"]

[Text] Editor's Note: Starting with young people's songs, Ho Chi Minh City began to review the entire mass culture movement, gained much important experience, and set forth guidelines and positive measures for advancing the movement. We are presenting an speech on that subject by Vo Van Kiet, Alternate Member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, at a meeting of mass culture cadres and performers in the Ho Chi Minh City workers' movement, organized by the Municipal Trade Union Federation on 1 May. In presenting the situation in Ho Chi Minh City comprehensively, sharply, and profoundly, we invite readers and comrades with knowledge of that subject to contribute opinions on building a mass movement and exchange opinions on many incisive matters that are not the exclusive concern of cultural and artistic circles.

#### I

The mass culture movement is always an element of the over-all movement of our city that is worthy of encouraging.

Our city, one of the great cultural centers of our country, while awaiting the creation of great, important cultural values, must be deeply concerned with the precious foundation -- the mass culture movement -- and do a truly good job of exploiting the strengths regarding material bases, artistic facilities, the existing ranks, and the limitless artistic talent and sensitivity of the youth masses and the people. The need of the people in our city to enjoy and be active in culture and art is very great and can only be met by a broad, strong mass culture movement.

During the first years after the liberation, we witnessed the greatest blossoming ever of the mass culture movement, which truly arose from the enterprises, schools, organs, blocks, neighborhoods, villages, and hamlets, continuing the pride-worthy tradition of the movement -- "Sing for the people" -- as well as all patriotic struggles and struggles against the slave culture that were waged in the very lair of the enemy. During the U.S.-puppet period, on the stage as well as in all collective activities there arose the sound of songs of patriotism, revolution, and



national pride. We sang revolutionary life-loving and homeland-loving songs with all the enthusiasm of workers and youths. The artistic forms of the movement were especially rich, with many varied collective song topics which were characteristic of the mass culture movement, which attracted large numbers of people who not only enjoyed the movement but enthusiastically participated in it. In gaining revolutionary momentum we sang because of what was swelling up within us, which was reflected in our music, lyrics, and dances, which were inspiring and lifted the soul.

If the movement is to be advanced, it is necessary to strongly emphasize very self-enlightened activities. Mass culture must first of all be tied very closely to the over-all movement.

Comrades engaged in cultural activities at the base level must firmly grasp -- as must all aware social activists -- the short-range and long-range objectives of the movement of our city's workers and laborers.

Under the conditions of our city, in order to build the working class spirit -- the leading spirit of the new society -- it is necessary to stress more strongly the role of culture and art in general and mass culture and art in particular, which has a great capability for creating sentiment favorable for bringing the people closer to the revolution, building a bridge to the new truth and leading people to it, and supplementing the spiritual motivation, by means of an optimistic, happy spirit, of the revolutionary activity movements of our youth, worker, and laborer masses.

With that in mind, mass culture is not a game or an ostentatious decoration for the enterprise, but is a true revolutionary campaign. You must improve yourselves and become conscious warriors of the mass culture army.

As warriors, the cadres engaged in cultural activities at the base level must be continually cared for and cultivated by the local party and trade union so that they can determine the boundary between the ideological stands of the working class and the bourgeois and petty bourgeois viewpoints and tendencies. We should also not forget that the working class itself has been infected by the venoms of the cultural policy and influence of the old society. The working class must cleanse itself of inappropriate manifestations, with a spirit of self-transformation. Only thereby can we strongly affect the transformation and cultivation of the other classes in its own image.

You also know that the recent party organization congress determined the direction of our city's cultural and ideological task: creating the new socialist man of an industrial city, in accordance with the viewpoints of the working class. That new man has developed many fine features in the movement to study and multiply advanced models in all spheres, especially on the industrial production front. Our cultural task must give all-out support to the formation of that new man, who was born under the present economic and social conditions and took form in the arduous, complicated, and resolute struggle to build a new way of life. Do all comrades in charge of culture at the base level, and especially all people who enthusiastically participate in mass cultural activities that one tied in with production and combat, clearly understand that requirement? I would also like to pose that question to all cadres and people specializing in cultural tasks.

The cultural movement among the workers must first of all take the lead and be strongly oriented toward -- and resolutely affirm -- the new man. Otherwise, the movement will no longer have a workers' nature.

We want you to understand more clearly what there is taking place in our city a fierce, decisive struggle with regard to the economy, which still includes five components, and a class struggle in a new form between national enemies and our people.

Under such conditions, if we relax even for a minute the old-style man and the old way of life will take advantage and immediately reappear. As Lenin clearly pointed out, to regard socialist ideology lightly is to strengthen bourgeois ideology.

In view of that situation, the movement's leadership must advance to creating for itself a new quality. It cannot continue to follow the old path, work without thinking, or have a lackadaisical attitude, even leaving the movement adrift.

The leadership must know how to invest its intelligence and study all elements of the movement, in its continuous internal movement and under all the other influences of the situation regarding society and life.

There is more to our city's broad mass cultural movement than youth singing groups. But the things that have happened are being profoundly analyzed.

We must be self-enlightened, take the initiative in continually improving the movement, and meet the new, proper demands of the masses, especially young people. If we do not pay attention to that matter, then in the guise of the new it is easy to fall into the old, in its disguised or original form. And if one pursues the old, on the surface with regard to form and technique, one can easily cause the rebirth of contents that are not appropriate to life today; on the contrary, they are often contradictory to life today. The good aspect of the recent situation is that we have been able to study many things. The great majority of the people in our city clearly will not accept anything that is foreign to our people and to the revolution, but we also have an opportunity to evaluate but we also have an opportunity to evaluate the still-deep vestiges of the provocative music which served the U.S. expeditionary army and the comprador bourgeoisie and militaristic bureaucrats, who prospered on the blood and bones of our people. We can also evaluate more clearly the deep wound in the sentiment of a considerable number of our youths: the continuing influence of "golden" "young," and "melodious" music, which were part of the U.S.-puppet cultural "pacification" schemes. Enabling the whole society to realize the seriousness of that problem is something that is very good.

In their sudden spontaneous development, youth songs have been confused by some people with the "young music" of the puppet period, with the extremely selfish psychological taste of the old society, which always wants to raise its head, encourage people to evade their responsibilities, avoid reality, turn their backs on our people's life of labor and combat, long for the past, and worship the foreign imperialists. Those youth songs become lively, popular products which immediately give birth to an attraction which competes with the movement. If in

managing the movement, we are dazzled by the superficial phenomena, we will unknowingly create conditions for the provocative music wave to suddenly gain the upper hand, and at times all but achieve a monopoly of musical life.

That situation exerts a reciprocal influence on our base-level mass culture troupes with regard to artistic orientation. You should review your performing style and motivation. If the working class do not approve of them, they should be corrected. That is an ordinary occurrence. But the working class cannot merely consider their enterprise but must consider society as a whole.

The great harm done by the abolition of the boundary in the city's musical life which neither performers or viewers, or organizers or managers, clearly realize is that it opens the way for harmful commercial activities in music. In our city there have sprung up cafes which have recreated the surroundings of the cafes of old, which play music loudly, sell live music at out-troat prices, and entice our people into another world. Whom does that music serve? Can the working class and laboring people of the city, despite the fact that they encounter many difficulties in their daily lives and work arduously to produce a little material wealth for society; the peasants, who are exposed to the sun and rain; the socialist intellectuals, who give their all; our youths, who still lack enough to eat but diligently study at school and train on the drill fields; and all people who are working to live and to nourish social life, not be angry over the fact that some parasites earn illegal livings and make money other than by their sweat and tears, who spend extravagantly and openly foster a culture that worships hedonism and a "take out" state of mind. They not only use money to buy their own separate world but also provoke and challenge a whole society. They say that enjoying oneself as they do is the "superior culture," while those who work and lead upright lives are "fools".

The collective mastery society of workers who will not accept the free, misguided way of life demands the immediate quelling of the restoration of the public strong points of the old way of life. Public opinion has deservedly denounced a number of lairs disguised as refreshment stands which deal in and disseminate illegal, reactionary culture. Many of them, behind their colored lights, also do business in women. With regard to some of our newly grown-up youths, they are traps and dens of iniquity. At least, they are propaganda offices for foreign ways which provoke curiosity, entice our youths, and exert a considerable influence on our children's sentiments, especially some young girls, regarding the true beauty of mankind and our people's way of life. As regards some unstable cadres and party members, they are standing on a threshold on which they can lose their footing and fall into the abyss of decadence. It is very regrettable that some artists who chase after money also ply their trade in such places. They must return to the people and stand in the ranks of the righteous. A number of cadres in the sub-precincts and villages, and sometimes at the precinct level or higher are certainly vague, and because they are indulgent or are bribed. In some cases they no longer have revolutionary qualities and have looked have revolutionary qualities and have looked the other way, covered up, or helped out, and sometimes they are accomplices in such misguided phenomena. Comrades, examine yourselves! It's not too late to straighten up! We say to comrades who have been wounded: look directly at your wounds and reflect. You can see more clearly than anyone the ins and outs of the problem and the capabilities and effect of each type of sugar-coated bullet.



People often quickly imitate the bad. Believing that the time was ripe on the fat cultural market, recently the vile speculators in cultural taste have tended to encroach. Public opinion has denounced people who have printed large numbers of illegal books for children, illegally reprinted books published under the old regime, reprinted popular music, rented out old books and music tapes, and smuggled music tapes, and have even expanded the network which rents out illegal music tapes and decadent films. Unhealthy culture has taken over in the schools and sneaked in to attack family life, young people, and social cells. Even during the U.S.-puppet period the people of our city clearly realized the danger of the aggressor U.S. imperialists' policy of debauching our people's spirit. Within the bosom of the enemy there was a movement to defend the national culture. Many people -- families struggling to preserve the purity of Vietnamese customs, parents struggling to protect the minds and souls of our children, and youths -- arose to struggle against the extremely insidious U.S. schemes to degenerate the Vietnamese, so how can they allow the speculators in cultural products to hold away and deliberately do wrong? A very large number of older revolutionary cadres, exemplary intellectuals, and people of the various circles, who are concerned about children and youths, have written letters requesting the governmental administration to severely punish such people to set an example for the others. In consonance with the law, the task of eliminating that extremely anti-culture culture must become a permanent one, penetrate deeply, and reach down to the sub-precincts, villages, schools, enterprises, organs, and families.

It should be remembered that the attacks against us take even more sophisticated forms, which excite not only our bodies but also our souls. We must be concerned with, analyze, and understand all cultural phenomena that lead people astray, weaken people, and exhaust the Vietnamese people.

Viewed objectively, the recent reemergence of culture that is decadent or only soft, lulling, or dreamy, has opened the way for and created conditions for the short-range and long-range plots of the enemy powers against our Vietnamese people.

On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the great victory of all our people, we are even more proud of and cherish the revolutionary accomplishments over many years of combat, and must enter more deeply into the thoughts of everyone. Our enemies the U.S. imperialists and the Chinese expansionist aggressors, whom we have defeated, are unwilling to abandon their plot to crush our people and annex our country. Because of the united, solid strength of our people, shoulder-to-shoulder with their Laotian and Kampuchean brothers, in an unshakeable solidarity bloc of the peoples of the three Indochinese countries, and with close ties to the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community, in the immediate future they have no hopes of attaining their goals by means of direct aggression. They are endeavoring to take advantage of present difficulties in our economy and in the lives of the people, and are carrying out many schemes coordinated in accordance with an insidious plot, and are persistently sabotaging all aspects of our people's great undertaking of building socialism, in order to weaken our country, destabilize our society, and weaken the fighting will of the Vietnamese people. In addition to the wily psychological warfare and the combining of CIA schemes with espionage schemes and political sabotage, there are even more sophisticated schemes of launching deep, systematic cultural attacks that are coordinated inside and out. The



scheme of attacking culturally is being revealed more and more clearly. That is not surprising. On a world-wide scope, because the balance of forces more and more favors peace and socialism, the imperialist powers have a clear policy of stepping up their so-called ideological offensive. In order to regain the initiative, they are stepping up their cultural aggression and exporting counterrevolution to the socialist countries and the developing countries in the form of cultural products based on superiority in modern specialized technical facilities. We believe in peaceful coexistence, but not in the coexistence of culture and ideology. We believe in detente but not detente with regard to the ideological struggle. We are firm about that.

As regards our country, especially toward our city, they infiltrate via marry routes and exert a transfigured, camouflaged influence which causes many ordinary people, because of either a lack of vigilance or greed, to become their helpers.

Here it must be said that they have taken advantage of our state's very generous policy of allowing Vietnamese living abroad, even those who fled along with the U.S. expeditionary army, or left later, to send parcels to help their families and relatives in Vietnam. According to the customs sector, via such parcels sent from abroad there have been sent into our city increasingly larger quantities of illegal reactionary materials, political publications, and religious publications; decadent, reactionary Western culture; and literary and musical works of traitors who fled abroad and want to continue their lives of being lackeys for their old and new masters, and disturb our people from afar. Among the illegal cultural works which are smuggled into our city, according to evidence recently confiscated during recent administrative inspections, include a considerable number of new music tapes recorded abroad. The old puppet flag appears on the labels of some of the tapes. Most of the decadent films we have confiscated from places which surreptitiously rent them out have also been new films which have been sent from abroad in such parcels. The city will organize an exhibit of materials and evidence regarding the infiltration of that illegal, counter-cultural, and traitorous culture. From now on the possession and circulation of such cultural products will result in strict punishment, in accordance with the law.

One thing which the imperialists and the Beijing expansionists understand clearly is that their crude, distorted counter-propaganda campaign aimed at our people cannot bring about the desired results. In order to affect our people and our city, they take advantage of some people who were active in the old stage and music circles and who fled abroad to carry out plots to influence and poison some people in our city who are still vague and credulous. Recently, world opinion has denounced the Beijing reactionaries, who offered land in Guangzhou Province so that the U.S. imperialists could erect a relay station for the Voice of America and beam broadcasts directly at our country. All of our patriots must pay attention to that situation! People who for decades dropped bombs and spread poisons on the heads of our people are now dropping their new bombs and poisons on our city by means of psychological warfare schemes. Supplementing the U.S. radio there are the well-known propaganda speakers of the West and Beijing. We must be as disciplined on the political, cultural, and morale struggle front as we are in combat.

Clearly, the enemies of our nation think that the morale of the people in this city is the key factor, the one on which they focus their attacks. They are mistaken

and will always be mistaken. The working class, the laboring people, the patriotic intellectuals, the aware youths, and the people of the various categories must be more vigilant! Accepting its responsibility as one of the great major cultural centers, Ho Chi Minh City must first of all become a determined-to-win component of the Brass Bastion Fatherland with regard to culture and thought.

Only against the background of the fierce cultural, political, and ideological struggle between the enemy and ourselves, to determine who defeats whom, and in view of the fact that private merchants are developing spontaneously, can we correctly determine the path of advance for the cultural front in general and the mass cultural movement in particular.. That battle is creating conditions for enabling culture and art that are oriented toward the nation, the party, the working class, and the people to develop more strongly and profoundly.

The literature and art meeting today, 1 May, also has a rallying effect. The time has come for the working class to realize its over-all responsibility and hold even higher the flag of national and socialist culture, unite all categories of people, manifest a spirit of socialist collective mastership, protect Vietnamese culture, and build a new culture.

In that spirit, we appeal first of all for communist comrades standing on the culture and art front, those engaged in cultural pursuits in our city, and comrades and friends engaged in culture and art professionally, to unite and integrate themselves with the common movement! I appeal for cadres in charge of literature and art at the base level, and everyone who is part of the mass culture movement among the workers, youths, the armed forces, the Assault Youth, and all other categories, to create for themselves new consciousness and new inspiration! United as one, all culture and art forces of our city are determined to further advance our movement, which is rich in potential, in struggle experience, and in creativity.

## II

The new phase of the revolution demands that we study in order to know how to do both economic and cultural-artistic work.

In the actual course of the movement, we have gained appropriate experience, in order to continually heighten our consciousness and over-all level regarding many problems in a sphere regarding which many are still rather indifferent or even inexperienced. That is the sphere of culture and art.

Because it has been very concerned with meeting more and more fully the legitimate cultural and morale needs of youths and the people, the party organization Executive Committee recently set aside time to study and discuss that matter. Having reached unanimity, some members of the Standing Committee -- including myself -- looked more deeply into the matter. I had an opportunity to listen to many members of the song troupes discuss their problems in detail. I held discussions with comrades of the sectors at the precinct and district levels who are responsible for the movement. I also invited a number of our music specialists with both theoretical knowledge and experience, and who have observed the movement, to study with us. All of the things we heard were very useful and helped us contribute opinions so

that the comrades could do a better job of guiding and managing the mass culture movement at the base level. After this discussion, I very much hope that you will express your opinions, and tell us what is being said at the base level.

When we posed the matter of the mass culture units having to return and remain at the base level, a member of a singing troupe said that "We are remaining at the base level and producing. I am continuing to both sing and operate a machine." Apparently, that young person understood that his being a worker who engaged directly in production was one thing and his singing activities was another thing, something he regarded as a secondary occupation and not related to his other occupation. That is the whole problem. Many young people in our movement do not understand that returning to the base level is returning to the land, good land for the development of their talents and souls. First of all, the economic and social welfare strengths of an enterprise can create conditions for its cultural troupes to perform for the movement and for art, and above all to protect their talents from the seductions of speculators in all kinds of commercial music activities, or at least to limit to the maximum extent the tendency to chase after money, which results in the corruption of the young people's artistic spirit and talent. Something we desire even more is that the collective groups at the base level know how to show proper love for the singers and musicians who, if they are not part of the group, sing and perform for it. Why are the workers at the base level only passive viewers who do not want to, or have the right to, contribute opinions to the artistic unit which represents them, to convey to it the sentiments, pride, and beliefs of workers? A mass cultural unit which takes the name of an installation but does not establish a close relationship with its coworkers at the base level cannot be regarded as a true mass cultural unit. Only when the workers at the base level recognize themselves in all themes, or at least a few themes, of its cultural unit can use have good mass culture units. We believe that this is an occasion for encouraging the workers at the base level, the party members, Youth Union members, and trade union members of each enterprise and unit to advance and develop their consciousness and capability of serving as the collective masters of their culture and art.

When the workers no longer places themselves in the position of a passive viewer they can very positively contribute many worthy opinions so that their performers will not imitate so-called professional singers. External motions that do not reflect what is inside are not necessary. The dress and appearance of workers' performers also cannot be like those of singers of old, but must clearly demonstrate deep pride in the nature, traditions, and strengths of the Vietnamese around them. Music must serve lyrics and music, and not think that being loud and violent is good. In general, in the beginning, you should help the performers to become self-enlightened and rid themselves of things that are absurd and foreign. They must, above all, respect themselves and respect the collective.

Normally, the comrades in charge of cultural affairs at the base level are only concerned with purchasing stringed instruments and drums, and purchase musical instruments that are expensive and new, in order to keep up with the others, and are not truly concerned with their talents. They do not yet truly care enough about music to know how to build and rebuild their people. I felt worried when seeking to understand the conditions of the artistic naturalization of some members of the well-known singing groups. They are very talented musically. Unfortunately, because



they were trained in the commercial music hotbed of the past most of them must improve their skills by teaching themselves. I was surprised when I heard that many people only study to play stringed instruments or drums by ear, or study by listening to a record player or radio, or diligently learn to play stringed instruments or drums by following charts. They even learn to sing by following such models. Some musical specialists have observed that often, when playing some of our valuable songs which lack introduction, performers add introductions from foreign songs. The concluding words of songs are also changed. All of those things allow us to understand that if there are instances of borrowing and bastardizing, that is not entirely because of a lack of consciousness but because of the practice of studying by imitating -- imitating radios, record players, or one another. That situation definitely must be changed and can be changed.

The mass culture movement among our people must above all emphasize true artistic labor, even if the activities are entirely amateur. In the mass culture movement among our workers there will gradually appear many talents from among those who participate directly in production labor. They will be both progressive workers and artistic nuclei. I very much want the trade union organizations and the culture and art sector to coordinate their efforts in depth and bring an end to abbreviated, informal, imitative study, and provide education for those engaged in our mass culture activities. They should be taught basic aesthetics and musical theory, and then performing, directing, and creating courses. Only thereby can workers advance to truly express themselves artistically. Immediately after being liberated our city began to awaken with regard to labor in general. Recently it has taken another step forward with regard to the true value of artistic labor. I am enthusiastically speaking about that today, a holiday for glorious creative labor. And I would like to report to you that under the general circumstances, you also know that our people are still experiencing many difficulties, and our city is preparing in all ways so that it can soon open an official center for cultivating the cadres and performers of our city's mass culture movement. A cultural center must have schools and advance to having research institutes, for only then can it rapidly, strongly, and correctly develop the precious artistic potential of its vast, highly promising mass culture movement.

Something I want to share with you today is that I became even more worried when I heard a performer with a singing group which bears the name of one of our factories say during a meeting that "We don't know what is meant by national." She unintentionally said something that is very true. A sad fact in our city is that in the course of long years of occupation a whole generation of youths, children of our people, grew up on sidewalks and surrounded by four walls, and were terribly influenced by the cultural poison policy and were greatly held back with regard to being nurtured in sentiment for their home area and country. I am very grateful to comrade Le Duan who, in expressing his opinions at the party organization congress, spoke of developing our city's people and stressed that the new person is above all a Vietnamese who is proud of his homeland, his people, and his ancestors. First all, the Federation of Trade Unions, the Youth Union, the cultural sector, and all who love the cultural sector, and all who love the enterprise of building the new man, must understand more clearly that incisive instruction of the party.



In his speech at our party organization congress, comrade Le Duan reminded us that we must fully understand that our lives and that of our families are integrally related to the continued existence of the whole Vietnamese national community. Economically, our city previously was completely dependent on U.S. aid, but have now arisen, are advancing on the basis of its land and labor, and must tie in its destiny with that of the country as a whole. The same is true with regard to culture and morale: we must adhere to the cultural and morale values of our country, and create on that basis. Everyone active in the cultural movement of our workers must know how to respect, love, and carry on the cultural inheritance of their ancestors and forefathers. I recommend that the trade union and the cultural sector concentrate on common efforts, so that everyone in our movement can inherit some of our rich popular music heritage, to serve as a basis on which our activities can become self-enlightened. In the city's future mass culture training center, we must create a truly good basic, general program, in which anyone can study the outline of Vietnamese culture, traditional music, and the folk songs of all ethnic groups in the great Vietnamese family. Everyone will learn to play a national instrument and everyone will know both practice and theory.

That is the crux of the young people's songs problem. In other countries, especially in the developed countries, sometimes the folk song tradition is not as strong as ours, but professional music has a long history, and the new method of singing with electronic instruments has been adopted without destroying the foundation or uprooting the soul of native music. In our country, the heritage of thousands of years was submerged by the feudal system and backward agriculture, and bore the yoke of hundreds of years of old-style and new-style colonialism, which systematically erased the musical heritage of our forefathers. Garish electronic instruments which retain a foreign flavor and are becoming more popular and spreading rapidly, threaten to shake the spiritual world which is taking form in some youth circles. Young people, because they don't know much about their own people, continually listen to, play, and live with foreign sounds, and it is even more difficult for them to deeply integrate themselves with their homeland.

As I have said, in general, our culture and art must advance to a modern status on the basis of the people. In the case of young people's songs, we must be very intelligent and active, and clearly pose the question of nationalizing and revolutionizing music which is capable of attracting such youths. That is a principle of the fraternal socialist countries. I will leave it to the specialists to work out the details. In order to contribute to correctly reorienting our precious workers' mass culture movement, I recommend that the performers and instrumentalists of our movement enthusiastically advance and resolutely experiment with the nationalization of young people's songs. The performers must resolutely study folk songs and traditional music, and bring the charm of Vietnam into modern singing. The artists of the fraternal nations praise our female singing voice as being soft, charming, and sweet, something which is distinctly Vietnamese and which Europe does not have. The instrumentalists should also study the old, traditional musical instruments, create distinctly Vietnamese pieces for modern instruments, and improve our instrumental sound more rapidly, so that it can be suitable for present-day tastes.

I hope that the city's artistic sector will sincerely assist the bases. I recommend that you immediately assign knowledgeable people to the key units, conduct very strict experiments, and resolve the problem of catching sounds and instruments,

about which the movement is still very confused, in order to bring an end to crude, foreign music and the thoughtless merging of foreign songs with our songs. "When we Soviet Union comrades perform and look at ourselves, I am embarrassed and ashamed over our foreignness and loss of roots." That was an opinion of a member of a famous young people's singing group in our city after attending a performance by the Soviet artist Tumsoni, who was exemplary with regard to artistic creation rich in national flavor. I think that we all share that embarrassment. All of us have the responsibility of correcting at the source all instances of bastardizing and loss of roots in our movement. Professionalism and amateurism are inseparable. The members of some singing groups must realize that if they continue to perform as they have done in the past, and separate themselves from the movement, they will no longer be capable of improving the quality of their art. As for the comrades who are professional performers, from now on they must be concerned with the movement, monitor it diligently, and uncover weaknesses in the mass movement in order to concentrate on resolving those problems.

The most important matter is that we foster creativity and create a national singing movement with modern contents. I would like to have the opportunity to exchange opinions with many music composers. On this occasion, I only want to say to you that, in the reviewing the movement, I believe that the role and responsibility of composers are considerable. Perhaps because the movement in our city is called the young people's singing movement, there is a tendency to consider only young people, especially those around you, those who applaud you. In order to oppose Western young people's music, which is created in the spiritual chaos of capitalist society, which stresses the individual and opposition, and which has become a means of cultural invasion by the imperialists, the fraternal nations have launched political songs movements which are based on national traditions, have clear contributory and participative contents, bring people together, and bring together people and their obligations to the regime. I recommend that we should unify the name of our country's movement with that of the common world movement, and replace the term "young people's songs" with the term "political songs," in order to remove all doubts.

Perhaps by definitively reorienting the movement, and on the basis of wisely recognizing the situation and their noble responsibilities, the members of the musical creation circles will be united with regard to their creativity. The movement is waiting for them to improve and change themselves.

The city places such hope in its musical creation ranks. We are people who, thanks to the revolution, know how to sing and are able to listen to much singing. In the flames of fierce warfare, revolutionary music gave birth to many songs which everyone recognizes as being part of them. I don't have as much time as I would like to study singing, but there will always live within me the melodies of such songs as "Setting Out," "Battalion 307," "East of the Truong Son, West of the Truong S Son," "Liberate the South," "The Five-Ton Song," "Get Up and Go," "Spring in Ho Chi Minh City," "Red Soil of the East," "Eyes Like Bullets," and many other very good songs. Each song which becomes part of people is a source of strength, a ray of light, a wing for the soul. The struggle in our city today is bloodless and there are no explosions, but it is fierce in other ways. Now more than ever we must have for our movement songs which more strongly inspire people. You must create with a

determined-to- in spirit on the front opposing cultural invasion, with full consciousness of strengthening and building the new san, Vietnamese who must defeat all challenges and advance to building a certain future that is worthy of our nation.

During the recent period, one observes that only young people's songs have been performed. The comrades in charge of the many culture houses and clubs in our city who are not skilled in cultural management are the "perpetrators" of that imbalance. I approve of the opinion of many musical specialists, who recommend that we restore balance in our city's music life. Each mass culture group at the base level should also combine such solo songs with dances of a more collective nature and which have undergone a period of good development, in the first years after the liberation.

The imbalance is not restricted to artistic form, but also exists with regard to the audiences. Because too much attention is paid to one audience, art cannot reach the great majority of the people. That is truly a mistake, for the sound of music doesn't reach the peasants in the outskirts of the city and the poor people in the workers' hamlets. It is regrettable that even the workers of many enterprises which sponsor singing groups cannot attend their performances, and if they could it isn't certain that they would like them. The cultural sector, taking into consideration the city as a whole, must pay attention to developing many artistic forms which serve different audiences. I've heard the people at the Music Institute say that they have experimented with sending groups to perform ethnic minority music for people in the provinces around our city, and the people have responded very favorably. I invite the ethnic group music groups to visit Cu Chi, the land of steel, and heroic Duyen Hai. Even in this city, a large number of people in different age groups have an ardent desire to return to their origins. The city's cultural sector and the other relevant sectors should study the early organization of service and production units to satisfy, with high quality, the increasingly greater need for light music, not only in theaters or cultural houses but also in public places, in each base, and in individual households. The comrades at the National School of Music hope to organize in our city annual performances of serious music, including symphony music. I believe that that should be done.

I urge all cultural and artistic forces active in the city to manifest a spirit of socialist cooperation, assist one another, develop a combined strength, build a mass culture movement that is truly good and fresh, and create a comprehensive, rich musical life for their cultural center. Today's combined public performance of the Music Institute and the National Music School is an enthusiastic symbol of that participative spirit. I believe that the members of the music sector of the city's cultural association are also prepared to tighten their ranks and attack. Especially, the municipal trade union association, in close cooperation with the Trade Union Federation, should launch a campaign based on expounding and clarifying the party's artistic viewpoints among the cultural troupes for which the Federation is responsible and among the youth masses who like art.

It is essential that we continually raise the level of artistic enjoyment of youths and the people. The cultural centers and clubs should invite knowledgeable people to hold informal, systematic discussions on music and musical aesthetics. The press, the radio stations, and the TV stations must improve their cultural contents,



increase their introductions and criticisms, guide public opinion in the right direction, and contribute to cultivating the people's artistic feeling. They must reflect the opinions of the masses, but should also set aside time for frank, sincere dialogues, in order to illuminate all aspects of the matter. The Education Service must pay attention to doing a good job of guiding musical subjects at the elementary level and create wholesome musical sentiment at an early age.

The responsible cadres in all sectors and at all echelons, especially in the precincts, districts, sub-precincts and bases, should not regard lightly the subject of culture and art in the lives of the people. That is a struggle which takes place every minute and every hour, and goes deeply into sentiment. It is an indispensable need of the people, especially youths. The greater the difficulties, the more important it is to have a spiritual life full of optimism and confidence. We must make the world of music in the city more pure and richer, and use the good to overcome the bad. The cultural-ideological task in general, and the cultural task and the mass cultural movement in particular will, if developed strongly and in the right direction, be active forces which directly promote production and all other activities. With regard to the future development of the city and the nation, the creation for our youths and people of an all-round scientific-technical reserve regarding culture and art will be valuable capital for future industrialization, and that capital cannot be created in a day. Starting as an industrial city, we must advance with a broad view and avoid fragmentation. The fact that everyone knows only his own work easily results in carelessness. And something that must always be considered is that today's society is responsible for tomorrow's society. The time has come for us to think very deeply and specifically about all matters, to have an all-encompassing view and consider the long range.

Before concluding, I want to clarify something in the spirit of 1 May. We stress the national characteristic, but as far as we are concerned the most ardent patriotism is always combined with true internationalism. Our party's policy toward culture is very clear: we assimilate the best features of world culture and the civilization of mankind. Our singing movement can still sing the wholesome, progressive, revolutionary songs of the world, selected songs which are introduced to listeners in Vietnamese translations. Such songs must be sung solemnly.

Our friends have written many songs about Vietnam which our people seldom hear. We all know that in the morning of 1 May 1957, in Berlin, capital of the German Democratic Republic, there was performed a song which celebrated the liberation of Saigon. Everyone enthusiastically sang along, gleefully danced in the streets, and shared the great happiness of our people and the people of the world. We would also like to have such songs, so that we can sing and dance in our streets. In our lives there are many times when we want to sing out. Our singing activities can be richer, livelier, and more attractive.

In concluding my speech today -- which I gave out of love for our movement -- I recommend that all of you, who are doing mass culture work, stand up and very happily sing the song, "It's As If Uncle Ho Were Present on the Happy Day of Great Victory."

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CSO: 4209/329



## BIOGRAPHIC

### INFORMATION ON VIETNAMESE PERSONALITIES

[The following information on Vietnamese personalities has been extracted from Vietnamese-language sources published in Hanoi, unless otherwise indicated. Asterisked job title indicates that this is the first known press reference to this individual functioning in this capacity.]

**Đặng Văn Ấn** [DAWNGJ VAWN AANS], Dr

President of the Vietnam Association of X-Ray, Physiotherapy and Radiology; he is the author of an article in the cited source on X-ray surgery methods. (TO QUOC No 4, Apr 81 pp 44-45)

**Nguyễn Ngọc Cẩm** [NGUYEENX NGOCJ CAAMR], \*Lieutenant Colonel

Of the Materials Department, Technical General Department; he was interviewed on National Assembly Election Day (26 April 1981). (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 27 Apr 81 p 4)

**Nguyễn Huy Chương** [NGUYEENX HUY CHUWOWNG], \*Major General

\*Deputy Commander, 5th MR; recently he attended a conference of the Political Department of the 5th MR. (Danang QUAN KHU 5 1st Issue Jan 81 p 1)

**Phan Văn Đà** [PHAN VAWN DAF]

\*Member of the VCP Committee, Ha Son Binh Province; Secretary of the VCP Committee, Thuong Tin District, Ha Son Binh Province; formerly Deputy Secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, Ha Son Binh Province; he was mentioned in an article on production contracting in his province. (TIEN PHONG 12-18 May 81 p 3)

**Phạm Kim Dao** [PHAMJ KIM DAOJ], \*Senior Colonel

\*Deputy Commander, Signal Branch; on 28 January 1981 he attended a branch conference on achievements of the past 2 years. (THONG TIN 2nd Issue Feb 81 p 1)

**Nguyễn Huy** [NGUYEENX HUY], Asst Prof

Deputy Director of the Institute of Economic Studies; is the author of an article in the cited source entitled, "Product Contracts: A Form of Labor Payment with a Socialist Nature." (TO QUOC No 4, Apr 81 pp 7-10)

Kôn Hư [KOON HUW]

\*Member of the VCP Committee, Binh Tri Thien Province; \*Secretary of the VCP Committee, A Luoi District, Binh Tri Thien Province; recently he attended military induction activities in a village of his district. (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 15 May 81 p 2)

Lương Tuấn Khang [LUWOWNG TUAANS QUANG], \*Major General

\*Deputy Commander of the 3rd Military Region; on 16 May 1981 he attended ceremonies in Haiphong when commendations were awarded to military units for their work in the Port of Haiphong. (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 18 May 81 p 1)

Nguyễn Văn Kiêu [NGUYEENX VAWN KIEEUF]

\*Head of the Department of Mass Culture, Ministry of Information and Culture; he is the author of an article in the cited source on political song work in Vietnam. (TO QUOC No 3, Mar 81 pp 40-43)

Nguyễn Duy Lạc [NGUYEENX ZUY LACJ], \*Senior Colonel

Possibly Political Officer of the Signal Branch; on 28 January 1981 he attended a branch conference on achievements of the past 2 years. (THONG TIN 2nd Issue Feb 81 p 1)

Phan Liêm [PHAN LIEEM], \*Senior Colonel

\*Deputy Commander for Political Affairs, 4th Corps [Quan Doan]; on 22 January 1981 he attended a talent contest sponsored by the 47th Division, 4th Corps. (Ho Chi Minh City QUAN DOAN 4, 5 Feb 81 p 2)

Nguyễn Thu Nhân [NGUYEENX THU NHANJ], MS

\*Deputy Director of the Vietnam-Sweden Children's Hospital in Hanoi; she is pictured and mentioned in a brief sketch of this new hospital in the cited source. (TO QUOC No 4, Apr 81 back cover)

Phan Hoan Quyền [PHAN HOAN QUYEEFN], Senior Colonel

\*Commander of the Signal Branch; recently he participated in an Army-wide signal conference. (THONG TIN 2nd Issue Feb 81 p 1)

Nguyễn Văn Sáu [NGUYEENX VAWN SAUS], Dr

\*Deputy Director of the Vietnam-Sweden Children's Hospital in Hanoi and Secretary of the VCP Committee of the hospital; he is pictured and mentioned in a brief sketch of this new hospital in the cited source. (TO QUOC No 4, Apr 81 back cover)

Nguyễn Văn Thân [NGUYEENX VAWN THAAN]

\*Head of the State Survey and Mapping Department [Cuc Do dac va ban do Nha Nuoc]; his article on disciplining a worker appeared in the cited source. (PHU NU VIET-NAM 13-19 May 81 p 8)

Hoàng Thi [HOANG THI]

\*Chairman of the People's Committee, Luong Ngoc District, Thanh Hoa Province; his letter accepting criticism for poor service by the commerce sector to highland residents appeared in the cited source. (DAI DOAN KET 27 May 81 p 2)

Hoàng Minh Thi [HOANG MINH THI], Major General

Member of the Central Committee of the VCP; \*Secretary of the VCP Committee, 4th MR; Commander of the 4th MR; recently he attended a conference on rear services activities in the 4th MR. (QUAN KHU BON 1st Issue Feb 81 p 3)

Lê Thiết [LEE THIEETS], \*Senior Colonel

\*Member of the VCP Committee, 4th MR; \*Deputy Commander for Rear Services, 4th MR; recently he attended a conference on rear services activities in the 4th MR. (QUAN KHU BON 1st Issue Feb 81 p 1)

Lương Ngọc Toàn [LUOWONG NGOCJ TOANR]

\*Vice Minister of Education; attended a recent conference on reviewing education work during the last 5 years (1976-1980). (NGHIEN CUU GIAO DUC No 3, Mar 81 p 27)

Nguyễn Đình Trúc [NGUYEENX DINHF TRUCS], \*Lieutenant Colonel

Of the Materials Department, Technical General Department; he was interviewed on National Assembly Election Day, 26 April 1981. (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 27 Apr 81 p 4)

Trần Hữu Tước [TRAANF HUWUX TUWOWCS], Prof

Head of the Institute of Otorhinolaryngology; he is the author of a brief article in the cited source on the urgent need to formulate laws, an article on the new SRV constitution. (TO QUOC No 3, Mar 81 pp 22-23)

Nguyễn Đình Ước [NGUYEENX DINHF UWOWCS], Senior Colonel

\*Deputy Commander for Political Affairs, 4th MR; in the beginning of 1981 he presented a decoration to the H.06 Armored Regt. (QUAN KHU BON 1st Issue Feb 81 p 1)

Ngô Thành Vân [NGOO THANH VAAN], \*Senior Colonel

\*Deputy Commander, 4th MR; in the beginning of 1981 he presented a decoration to the H.83 AAA Regt. (QUAN KHU BON 1st Issue Feb 81 p 1)

Phan Viêm [PHAN VIEEM], \*Colonel

\*Deputy Head of the Artillery Officers School; his response to a readers letter appeared in the cited source. (QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 3 May 81 p 2)

Thái Minh Viên [THAIS MINH VIEEN], \*Lieutenant Colonel

He represented the Culture Bureau, 4th Corps [Quan Doan] on 22 January 1981 at a talent contest sponsored by the 47th Div, 4th Corps. (Ho Chi Minh City QUAN DOAN 4 5 Feb 81 p 2)

**END OF**

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